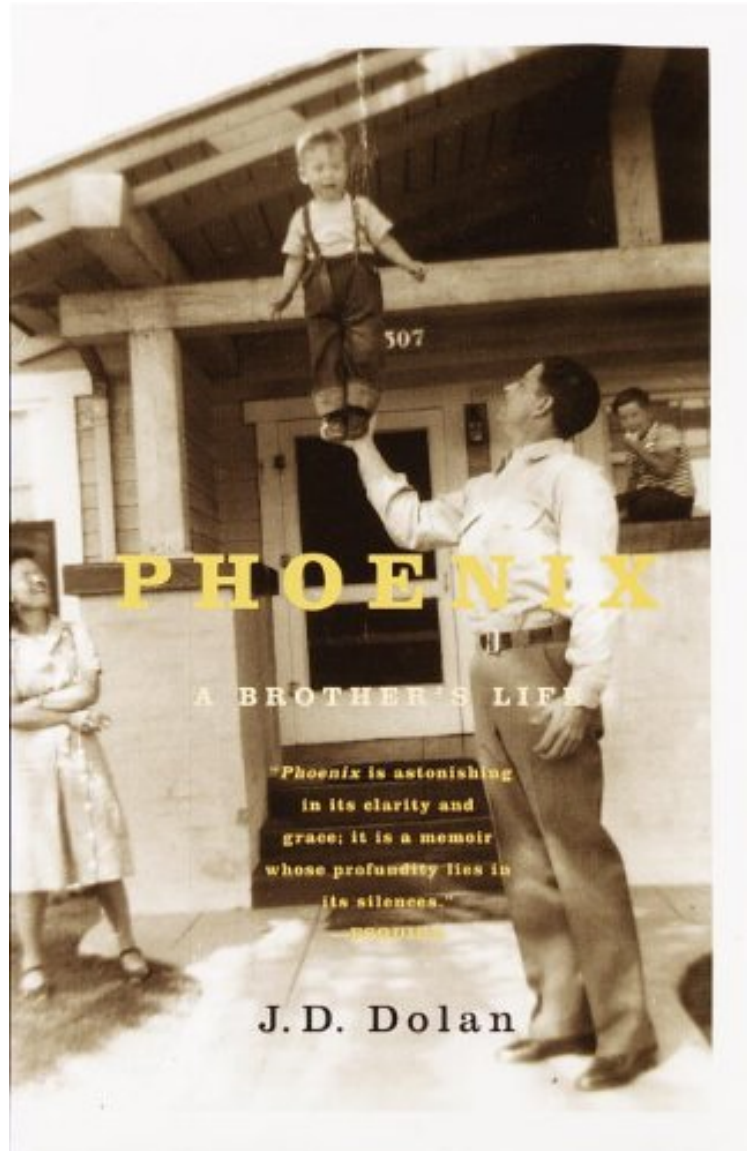


[Download pdf] Phoenix: A Brother's Life

Phoenix: A Brother's Life

Von J.D. Dolan

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Von J.D. Dolan : Phoenix: A Brother's Life before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Phoenix: A Brother's Life:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An evocative family memoir Von Lissy Friedman Phoenix: A Brother's Life, by J.D. Dolan, is an autobiographical account of the author's relationship with his family, primarily with his older brother who died of severe burns suffered during a devastating workplace explosion. The book spans the abbreviated life of John Dolan, the author J.D. "Jay" Dolan's

older brother, and muses primarily on their relationship in a series of flashbacks and reflections that take place during Jay's death vigil over his mortally-wounded brother. The narrative sets forth the dynamics of the Dolan family, consisting of the parents, the sons John and Jay, and their three sisters, whose characters are slightly less fleshed out and who are more like satellites orbiting the more assertive brothers. The family persona is summarized quickly: the mother is a typical, nondescript housewife; the father looms as a sullen, bitter disciplinarian who passes on to his children the habit of holding longstanding, silent grudges; the oldest sister is defiantly independent while the other two sisters stay closer to home and exchange sibling rivalries; the older brother John is a stoic automotive enthusiast who gets drafted for duty in Vietnam; and Jay is the youngest child born after his parents were in their forties, the forgotten child observing the family drama and being raised more by his siblings than his parents. The story focuses on Jay's hero worship of John and contains many a male bonding vignette, including forays into the woods where John teaches Jay to target shoot, as well as their shared love of cars and motorcycles and the ceremonial passing of the torch (in the form of a Marine Corps sweatshirt) when John is drafted and goes off to war in Vietnam (he actually gets sent to Japan). Despite their adolescent closeness, in later years John severs all communication with Jay for reasons we never really discover, which incidentally is one of the only unsatisfying aspects of the story. The brothers and the rest of the family are reunited by tragedy, when John is injured in a steam heat explosion at the Southern California Edison's Mohave Generating Station in which sixteen people were injured, six of whom died. John's abrupt decision to terminate his relationship with Jay mirrors their father's habit of doing likewise. Their father enforces the petty grudges he holds by refusing to speak to people who draw his ire, including his oldest daughter because she bought an impractical, flash car (a Thunderbird) and later stayed out past curfew on a single occasion, and also his own brother for undisclosed reasons that lasted until the brother was on his deathbed. The repetition by John of this corrosive, emotionally-constipated withholding of communication and love from Jay is what makes this story so poignant, as Jay struggles to reconcile the unresolved feud while bidding a final farewell to his brother. Although it is nonfiction, the story reads like a novel, weaving past and present narratives adeptly. The writing is thoroughly masculine and spare, in the style of Hemingway, without being obviously imitative or jarring. Overall, the story is engaging albeit a little depressing because it does not deliver the catharsis the reader -- and no doubt Jay -- hopes for. No clear answers or endings are delivered, but then perhaps that is what separates fact from fiction, and J.D. Dolan succeeds in conveying a message about the importance of family bonds and the unconditional love that underlie them.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Phoenix: One of the most enjoyable books in years Von Ein Kunde Dolan's Phoenix is one of the most enjoyable books I've read in years. I could not put it down. It reveals the complicated, fascinating dynamics of his family before and after his brother suffers from a fatal tragedy. Yet it never feels maudlin or self-pitying in any way. In fact, the book has such a sharp sense of humor even in its darker passages. Reading this book made me think a lot about my own family: issues of silence, jealousy between siblings, and the need to redeem oneself. I was sad when the book was over. I really cared about these character and their dramatic, interesting lives. I hope Dolan writes a sequel. He creates characters that I want to spend even more time with.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Phoenix Von Jeff Parker Maybe it's because I'm living in Phoenix that I felt so close to this story, that I felt the heat. But then again maybe not. Resonating from his current focus, be it Vuarnet sunglasses or a pretty nurse tending to his brother, we discover what's happened in these lives, how this family came to such a state. For Dolan, he was a weed fiend. He was the road manager for Cher. He was the background in the portrait of a famous desert motorcycle racer. With the glut of memoir in the publishing market these days, this is one that deserved to be written and has to be read.

Kurzbeschreibung A beautifully rendered portrait of family and loss, of childhood and manhood by a supremely gifted writer evaluating the sum of his experiences and emerging with a moving work of the highest level. J. D. Dolan was vacationing in Paris when he received a telephone call telling him to fly home immediately. A horrible accident had put his big brother John in a Phoenix burn unit with third degree burns over 90 percent of his body. As a child in 1960s Los Angeles, J. D. shared with John the unspoken bond that exists only between brothers. But as time passed and their excursions together ended, so did their conversation. For reasons known to John alone, they existed with each other only in silence, and now, in what would be their final days together, there would be precious few opportunities to talk. Phoenix is J. D. Dolan's personal reflections on the agonizing weeks spent coming to terms with his brother's fate, and his attempt to bring their relationship into perspective. From the Trade Paperback edition. de Keeping a vigil at the bedside of his older brother, John, burned over 90 percent of his body in a generating-plant explosion, J.D. Dolan reflects on their troubled relationship and the tensions that seethed within their family. In the author's sensitive portrait, the Dolans seem a fairly typical post-World War II Los Angeles clan: Dad and John bond wordlessly while working on cars; eldest child Joanne struggles for independence; younger siblings Janice and June fight for precedence; Mom sublimates conflicts through relentless homemaking; J.D., the baby, hero-worships his big brother. Yet the author makes each Dolan a distinct and intriguing individual in a narrative penetrated by metaphor and replete with telling

details: "my father saved stuff he might someday need, and my mother saved stuff she might someday want"; "'Good morning,' Janice would say, as if issuing a challenge." When John was injured, the brothers hadn't spoken in five years, continuing a family tradition of punishment through silence. There is no tearful deathbed reconciliation, nor do the emotional differences among the surviving Dolans evaporate in the Phoenix hospital where John lies dying. But this beautiful book resonates with the author's compassion and tenderness for his kin, and most especially with his ability to reclaim the love he and his brother once felt for each other. --Wendy Smith.com

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